

Remarks/Arguments:

The specification is amended, hereby, to correct clerical errors that were found in a previous amendment. All of the corrections made, hereby, effect text found in the corresponding paragraphs of the specification as originally filed.

Claims 5, 8, and 11-13, previously presented, claims 7 and 9, currently amended, and claims 20-25, newly presented, are pending.

Claims 7 and 9 are amended, hereby, to correct obvious clerical errors. In claim 7, the proposition "of" is replaced by "to." In claim 9, "moving means to sample" is replaced by "sampling means to sample" (described at page 22, lines 5-7, of the specification), "absorbing liquid" is changed to "absorbed liquid" (for proper antecedent basis), and "means to . . . moving the . . . sample" is replaced by "means to . . . move the . . . sample" (for proper syntax).

Applicants wish to thank Supervisory Patent Examiner Jill A. Warden, for the courteous consideration rendered applicants' representative during an interview at the PTO on 8 February 2005. During the interview claims 5, 7-9, and 11-13, of record, were discussed. The examiner indicated that claims 5, 7-9, and 11-13 should overcome the rejections of record.

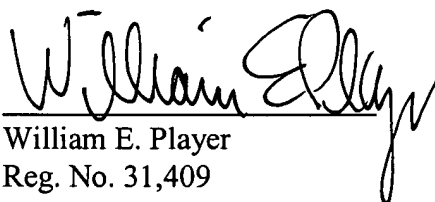
Also during the interview a set of proposed *device* claims were presented. The examiner indicated that device claims presented appeared to define over the prior art, as well as the method claims of record. Further, the examiner indicated that, if the proposed device claims were submitted in an amendment, they would be entered and rejoined with the present method claims. Present "device" claims 20-25 correspond to the device claims presented during the interview.

For the foregoing reasons the subject application appears to be in immediate form for allowance.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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